

Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 6:00 PM

Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center

350 Division Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Minutes

I Meeting will come to order

The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

a. Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here

Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction and Assessment; Mr. Thomas J. Conlon, Business Administrator, Mr. Ed Frenette and Mr. David Frieder from SMMA, Mr. Stephen M. Robinson, Legal Counsel for the School Committee, Mr. Ed Frenette and Mr. David Frieder from Symmes, Maini and McKee Associates (SMMA).

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II Celebration/Recognition

None

III Student Representatives

a. Charles E. Shea High School

Mr. Noonan announced that the Shea High School Girls' Volleyball

Team won the State Championship. It is also their open house. Therefore, there are no Shea Representatives this evening.

William E. Tolman High School

Guidance Counselor, Ms. Jane Renza introduced Aoua Coumbasssa who was the only student chosen to ask the Dalai Lama a question during his last visit here recently in Rhode Island.

Aoua: I'm a senior at Tolman High School and last month I was nominated to ask the Dalai Lama a question of my own. I was the only high school student who was selected to do so. My Mom and I went to the Convention Center as well as Brown University so that he could answer my question.

I was looking over his quotes on line and as I read them I could agree with most of them except for when he quoted "the purpose of our lives is to be happy."

So my question was, "If the purpose of our life is to be happy, then why is it, that certain individuals' happiness causes pain for others?"

He said that "Unfortunately, there are certain individuals that are very selfish and only care about themselves and don't really care for other people's suffering so they have to have whatever they want."

So we have to feel happy about our self and about our life.

Ms. Renza commented that Aoua will be applying to Brown Medical School, the Liberal Medical School for Education.

Abimbola Olaqunju: Hi, I'm a senior at Tolman and I'm here to give a quick update on our sports.

It's been an incredible year for our athletes and we should be proud of ourselves.

The girls' volleyball team made it to the semi-finals. Even though we didn't go all the way, we did get the first banner in Tolman High School for division champions and were recently notified that we received the Sportsmanship Award.

The boys' soccer team made it to the quarter finals and we lost against Barrington.

The football team was moved up a division; to division I and their record is 3-5.

The girls' soccer team had their divisional finals yesterday and even though they didn't win, they should be proud for getting that far.

Reginae Cosby: Last time we talked about many things such as the freshmen academy and how it is new to us and how our years in high school are going to be. We talked about the spaghetti dinner and the open house.

This week I'm going to talk about the student council and the student council has spirit week going on next week. Monday is favorite hat day. Tuesday is going to be our favorite sports team. Wednesday is our school colors which are red and white.

The music department had a movie night. The movie night had a refreshment stand and we raised a lot of money for the music department. We used the money for guitars because we don't have enough guitars for every student. We have twenty to thirty students in each class and only twenty guitars, so we have to partner up and that really isn't any fun. We also raised enough money for new instruments and other great stuff.

Sarah Arno: Sarah is still a freshman at Tolman High School. Sarah

informed the audience and the Committee about peer mentoring and how it is when upperclassmen help the freshmen get ahead in courses and work and also help us with problems in high school that we are facing so far. They meet every Thursday at 2:45 PM in the library. We talk about everything we need help with and they try to solve it as fast as they can.

We have a dance this Friday and the tickets are \$5.00. It's for all grades nine through twelve. It's the homecoming dance. All students are allowed to dress the way they want.

We are having a canned food drive for the homeless shelter for Thanksgiving. We have buckets in all the freshmen academies and we are able to see who leads each day. The tigers are in the lead so far and that is my team and we are trying our best because we have very competitive teachers. We are hoping to raise a lot of food for the homeless shelter so everyone can have a really nice Thanksgiving.

Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts

None

IV Public Participation

None

V Executive Session

The Chairman commented that the Committee would possibly recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under the RI General Laws, Title 42, chapter 46, Subsection 5 (a) (1) job performance, character or physical/mental health (2) legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon:

1 School Committee Interview of Chief Information and Innovation Officer Finalist

2 Legal Advice—Consolidation of Shared Services

3 Legal Advice—Local 1352 Negotiations

4 Seal Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Bonollo moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recessed to executive session at 6:17 PM to 7:20 PM.

VI Reconvene to open session

The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, reconvened the open session at 7:27 PM.

a. Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr. Noonan-I am here, yes; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here

VII Report out vote(s) of 11/13/12 executive session, if applicable

The Chairman asked the Clerk if there were any votes to report out of executive session.

The Clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session.

VIII Acceptance of previous meeting minutes: 10/09/12

Ms. Bonollo moved to accept and approve the previous meeting minutes of 10/09/12. Mr. Noonan seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

IX Old Business

a. Reconsideration of Approval to proceed with Appeal Adequacy Lawsuit

Mr. Noonan moved to reconsider to approve to proceed with the Appeal of the Adequacy Lawsuit. Mr. Stephen M. Robinson will provide services pro bono. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Mr. Robinson: It was clear to me that the Members have become very aware of this process and the unfairness of the funding formula and to be very clear it was a concern over to the finances and it has been my honor and privilege to represent Pawtucket for a long time. My office is prepared to do it pro bono, meaning we will do the appeal without cost to the City of Pawtucket. I can thank my brethren from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) who has agreed to file an amicus in support of our position as has the National Education Association (NEA) and we expect the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) very quickly filing an amicus as well.

Mr. Tenreiro: I was always in favor of this. I was in favor of it the first time and I think the state's system needs to be tested in this case.

Roll call on motion to reconsider

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Mr. Araujo moved to approve to proceed with the appeal of the Adequacy Lawsuit. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Mr. Coughlin: There is going to be a meeting on the 20th at Bryant University that's being sponsored by the Rhode Island Association of

School Committees (RIASC) and the Bryant Leadership but the talk of that meeting is that they are going to try to go down a different path that is to try to get the state to accelerate the funding formula which will bring more revenue to urban districts like Pawtucket. I feel very strongly to get more revenue is to push harder on the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and the state to get our fair share out of the funding formula. I don't think the adequacy lawsuit is the way to go. I think the pounding the on the legislature and the state is the way to go so I'll be voting against this tonight.

Roll call on motion to approve

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-no; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes

Motion carried six in favor; one opposed.

X Information Items

a. Monthly Report to City

Mrs. Cylke: This is a monthly report that is sent to the city and that shows both the School and City Budget Monthly Summary and this month we are showing a surplus.

Mr. Noonan left the meeting at 7:34 PM.

XI New Business-Action Items

a. Approval of Certified Appointments

Mrs. Cylke: The candidate that is being recommended for appointment to the Literacy Coordinator position this evening was the unanimous choice of the committee and comes with lots of experience and expertise.

Literacy Coordinator-Administration Building

Elizabeth Salzillo

This position will be funded from federal funds.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the appointment of the Literacy Coordinator, Elizabeth Salzillo as recommended. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

Mrs. Cylke: Also this evening we would like to recommend for appointment:

Library Media Specialist-Greene

Kathleen Kaliff Reeve; Step 10

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the appointment of library media specialist-Greene, Kathleen Kaliff Reeve; Step 10. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

b. Approval of Coaching Appointment

Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, recommended for approval the following coaching appointment:

Swim Head Coach/Shea High School

Kim Hewson

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the appointment of Kim Hewson as Swim Head Coach/Shea High School. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, recommended for approval the following Goff coaches:

Christopher Colson-Head Coach Cross Country

Gregory Clark-Assistant Coach Cross Country

Jorge Torres-Head Coach Boys' Soccer

Bridget Boucher-Assistant Coach Boys' Soccer

Olga Pardo-Head Coach Girls' Soccer

Angelo Gentile-Assistant Coach Girls' Soccer

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the appointment the Goff coaches as recommended. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Ms. Nordquist commented that it was too late to receive the paperwork for the work that had already been done. The paperwork should have been received before the coaching had taken place.

Mr. Araujo asked why there were so many vacancies.

Ms. Nordquist further commented that the names looked familiar and perhaps these coaches were in the same positions as last year and it wasn't necessary to appoint them again. The Superintendent will meet with Mr. Scanlon and Mr. McGee to discuss this matter.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

c. Approval of Non Certified Appointment

Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, recommended the following non certified custodial appointment:

Mr. Robert Meyer/Potter Burns 2-10 PM

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the recommendation of the non certified custodial appointment; Robert Meyer/Potter Burns 2-10 PM.

Mr. Araujo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

d. Approval of Appointment of Chief Information and Innovation Officer

Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke, commented that the Committee had the opportunity to interview the top candidate for the position of the Chief Information and Innovation Officer.

Ms. Nordquist recommended and moved to approve the appointment of Hersh Cristino to the position of the Chief Information and Innovation Officer. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Mr. Tenreiro: Technology is the backbone especially with all of the initiatives coming down from the Rhode Island Department of Education and with Race to the Top. It's such a critical position. I'm so happy we have someone like you, knowing you for the many years that I've known you. It is so vital and probably the most vital in school departments right now. You're at that front line. Congratulations.

Ms. Bonollo: We're lucky to have him.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

Mr. Cristino thanked everyone and introduced his family; his wife, Lynne and sons, Noah and Kyle who were in the audience. Hersh also introduced members of his team, Paul and Ernie who were also in the audience.

e. Acceptance of RIPEC Shared Services Study—Appointment of Subcommittee

Mr. Spooner moved to formally accept the RIPEC Shared Services Study. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

Mr. Tenreiro commented that he had a conversation about serving on the Consolidation Subcommittee with both Mr. Araujo and Mr.

Spooner and they both agreed that they would. Mr. Tenreiro requested that the Superintendent, Mrs. Cylke contact the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) to see if there was someone there who was familiar with the Consolidation services done in other communities to see if they would be willing to sit on the subcommittee and share their input.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve to appoint Mr. Araujo and Mr. Spooner to serve on the Consolidation Subcommittee. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

f. Approval of School Committee Member Handbook—Code of Conduct, Professional Practices, and Core Beliefs, 2nd Reading
Voice vote carries five in favor; one opposed. Opposing vote is Mr. Coughlin.

XII Presentation Item(s)

a. SMMA Progress Report/Long Range Facilities Plan

Mrs. Cylke commented that the Necessity of Construction guidelines changed in 2000 and that there is a moratorium on Stage II properties that will be lifted in 2014. Mrs. Cylke further commented that we want that plan pre-approved and that we have a huge challenge as the representatives from SMMA will show you. Kim will also attest that we have no more room. We can add space or build new schools. A good example is Central High School in Providence; on the outside it is 1940, but on the inside it is 2012.

The only open space now is Slater Park and Narragansett Race Park where the Building 19 is on the edge of East Providence.

We need to identify the problem; renovate the schools and improve our schools.

Mrs. Cylke introduced Ed Frenette and David Frieder from SMMA.

Mr. Frenette: RIDE Stage I and II is to assess your existing facilities and apply for immediate health and safety funding which was approved. The second part is where you want to go. We have reviewed these options with RIDE. There is no simple solution.

Mr. Frieder: I am an architect with SMMA in the Providence office working on this project since early June on the best ways to deal with over capacity. Pawtucket has more students than space to accommodate. NESDEC says that will continue. Of that 800 over capacity, 400 are in the elementary and 400 are in the high schools.

We need to verify using existing capacity in all of your schools.

The first thing that came up is we can't add on to the high schools. They are land locked. We considered where we can put a new high school. The sight is where you are sitting right now.

The recommended sight for a high school is Jenks. The cost for acquisition is something RIDE does not reimburse for.

We took the footprint of the urban high school and it fits well and works really well with the athletic field across the street and owned by the City.

The first goal was to re-purpose and re-utilize existing facilities in grades K-5; 6-8 and 9-12. We discovered that we still ended up with too many kids in too small of a space.

High School—put addition on Jenks for \$50M. Build four modest additions at four elementary schools that have land.

Ms. Nordquist: When you talk about addition in elementary schools, did it ever come up about adding a gym? Because what they are using now, the multi-purpose room, scheduling conflicts come up.

Mrs. Cylke: We did have a good discussion.

Ms. Nordquist: We hear about gym taking place in hallways. Kids deserve better than that.

Mr. Frieder: We only added on where there was land; Curtis, Greene, Potter and Varieur. These would be permanent additions. RIDE will not reimburse for portables.

The pros: it meets the districts needs under this scheme, Tolman still has to remain in service and Shea turns into a middle school.

The cons: We're not able to consolidate. We are able to keep open Winters Elementary.

Ms. Bonollo: If you look at your overlay, you expanded over all of the parking. Where will the staff park?

Mr. Frieder: They can use McCoy.

Ms. Bonollo: They have 1:00 PM games in the spring and summer and often rely on the parking here.

Mr. Frieder: Scenario 9B, demolish the building we are sitting in and build a state of the art high school and Shea and Tolman are used as middle schools and sell Winters.

It reduces facilities needs for a total estimated cost by \$37M. You may find the upgrade costs of elementary higher.

Ms. Bonollo: With the expansion at the elementary, are you going to be leaving any outside room for physical activity? We're renting space at St. Paul's instead of selling Winters, we could use that.

Mrs. Cylke: I would imagine now they use that in New York City. As we look at other communities as we refurbish and renovate it's so different. We run into space problems in Pawtucket.

RIDE will approve both of these scenarios tonight. We looked at every possible way at solving this.

Mr. Araujo: At the last meeting we talked about how the population is growing. The cost for this is \$272M.

Mr. Frenette: This is a lot of money. You wouldn't build everything at once. Kids would only experience construction once, if you build starting with the high school down instead of the elementary school up.

Ms. Bonollo: Is there any reason we couldn't build two levels, i.e. Curtis?

Mr. Frenette: For this to be official at **RIDE**, we would need a vote and approval for this.

Mr. Spooner: We used to own the Anna Burns School. What can we do to get that back?

Mr. Araujo: There is an acquisition fee that **RIDE** wouldn't approve.

Ms. Nordquist: If you're talking about putting up a new high school and closing Winters; does that mean re-drawing the line for neighborhood schools? You're not going to talk about Potter and divide it up?

Mrs. Cylke: The zoning piece has to follow. I envision a lot of community engagement; parents, teachers, community leaders and a lot of meetings. Our goal tonight was to just give you an update and as Ed said there were fourteen different scenarios and as we go

through those and eliminate because they create more problems than they solve.

Mr. Coughlin: Have we superimposed the architecture for a new high school over any arbitrary land and then considered the possibility of taking it by eminent domain? Seizing the land by eminent domain?

Mrs. Cylke: We don't get reimbursed by acquisition of property. The goal was something that was centrally located.

Mr. Araujo: That was one thing that was discussed a central location and that was one thing we were focusing on. The Building 19 area was not and we had concerns about getting the students from the Smithfield Avenue area over there.

Mr. Coughlin: Is this a central location?

Mr. Frenette: Yes.

Mrs. Cylke: Our goal tonight was to just give you an update and as Ed said there were fourteen different scenarios and as we go through those and eliminate because they create more problems than they solve.

XIII Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Cylke: Thank you Ed and Dave.

I want to publically thank the citizens, parents and employees who supported Question 14. We are very eager to begin the work. When I saw the margin of support we should have asked for \$8M. In hindsight you had to go with good information and good consulting and I'm happy we have that extra money.

I want to recognize the Shea girls' volleyball team for winning the State Championship and the girls' Tolman High School soccer team

for finishing number two in the State. That's a great way for those two schools to start their fall season. We're proud of the kids and the coaches. Congratulations.

Hasbro again is sponsoring a music program for grades three, four and five with the Rhode Island Philharmonic. We participated last spring and it was a wonderful event. We are very grateful that Hasbro again will sponsor all children in grades three, four and five.

The State approved a \$500,000 grant to work for the Jason Project and this is something Kim is overseeing. It's a science project in our middle schools and our teachers will receive free training and the idea is to connect these kids with the Jason project which is one of Robert Ballard's projects. It's at Smithfield High School and it's where you spark interest in oceanography. We are the ocean state and the University of Rhode Island has one of the best programs in the nation so this is a nice freebie and both teacher and students will benefit.

I want to mention that Dina Dutremble is working for us three days a week since Maggie has left. Dina has been a tremendous help and she is a former Business Administrator in Cumberland, and retired and serves on the Woonsocket Bond Committee Association. Dina is a highly qualified school business administrator. We're grateful to have her service. She can only work ninety days and everybody in the state wants her for a few days so we are lucky to have her here in Pawtucket.

XIV Special Reports of School Committee Members

Mr. Araujo: I want to thank the voters for giving me another two years

to serve on this committee. I'm truly grateful for that.

I'd also like to reiterate on what the Superintendent had to say. It's very important that Question 14 was passed. The safety of our children and employees are paramount, so I want to thank the voters for that as well. Have a good night.

Ms. Bonollo: Good night.

Mr. Coughlin: Happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Nordquist: I too wanted to congratulate the Shea volleyball team and the Tolman girls' soccer team. I wanted to let the committee know that Mr. Araujo and I had a chance to go to Slater to speak about the school committee; about our role and also this office and how it is we got elected. The students were very well behaved and I believed engaged throughout the hour that we spoke with them. So if you ever get the chance or an invite like that, it's a great and rewarding experience. Have a good night.

Mr. Spooner: Have a good night and Happy Thanksgiving, it's my favorite holiday and not just for the food. But seriously, it's one of those holidays where if you see someone who needs a helping hand, don't be afraid to reach out to help because we all know it's tough now and there's a lot of people in need out there. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

Mr. Tenreiro: I want to commend the public relations effort by the School Department and the Superintendent on that bond issue. I think it was one of the higher percentages of approval for a bond like that. I commend everyone who was involved including committee members for getting the information out. Happy Thanksgiving.

XV Adjournment

Mr. Spooner moved to adjourn. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

The Chairman, Mr. Tenreiro, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved 12/11/12